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From: Maier, Brent
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Head of California agency accused of favoring oil industry quits

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Mark Nechodom, the director of the California Department of Conservation, which oversees the embattled agency that regulates the state's oil and gas industry, resigned Thursday.

California's oil regulators, the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, have been facing scrutiny from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency after allowing oil producers to drill thousands of oilfield wastewater disposal wells into federally protected aquifers.

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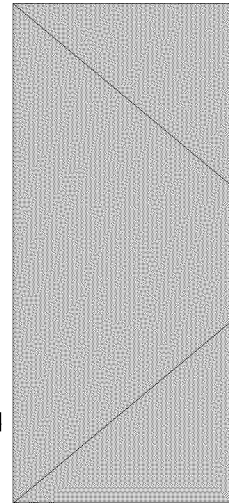
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